GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4516
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Facilities for Child Welfare
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

a) the action taken by the Government for starting pre-primary schools, play schools and day care centres for the welfare of children;
b) whether the Government has taken note that the fee levied in such schools/centres are exorbitant;
c) if so, the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard;
d) whether the Government proposes to improve the standard of Anganwadies in the country and if so, the details thereof;
e) the action taken by the Government to provide nutritious food to children in pre-primary level, play school level and Anganwadies; and
f) whether the Government provides financial assistance to States/UTs for improving the infrastructure of Anganwadies, if so, the details thereof indicating funds provided therefor during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) to (d) Launched in 1975, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a unique early childhood development program aimed at addressing health, nutrition and developmental needs of children under six years. The National Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) Policy as notified on 12th October, 2013, recognizes multiple models of ECCE services delivery through public, private, and non-governmental service providers including Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), play schools, pre-schools, etc. Public channel is the largest provider of ECCE services through ICDS Scheme as implemented by States / UTs. Under ICDS Scheme, universal and free services relating to health, nutrition and early childhood care and education/ Pre-school Education (PSE) is provided through 13.50 Lakh operational Anganwadi Centres.
The policy also lays down basic quality standards relating, inter alia, to building and infrastructure, pupil-teacher interaction, learning experiences planned for children, health, nutrition, protection measures and trained staff.
Further, to improve the infrastructure facilities including drinking water facilities and sanitation of Anganwadi Centres, guidelines have been issued jointly by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Women and Child Development for construction of 4 lakh AWCs Buildings under convergence by 2019 all over the country. Under convergence, construction of 29,941 and 90,048 AWC buildings have been approved during the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.
(e) Supplementary Nutrition under ICDS Scheme is provided to children below six years including pre-school beneficiaries in the age group of 3-6 years attending Anganwadi Centres is as follows:

Sl. No. Category Type of food
1) Children (6-36 months) Take Home Ration in the form that is palatable to the child. It could be given in the form of micro- nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.
2) Severely malnourished children (6-36 months) Same type of food supplement of 800 calories of energy and 20-25 gms. of protein.
3) Children (3-6 years) Morning snack in the form of milk / banana / seasonal fruits etc. and Hot Cooked Meal.
4) Severely malnourished children (3-6 years) Additional 300 calories of energy and 8-10 gms. of protein in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.

(f) Yes, Madam. State/UT-wise funds provided by Government of India during last three years and the current year are at ANNEXURE-I & II.

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